the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Frost nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators CARDIN, CASSIDY, and SULLIVAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The senior Senator from Maryland is recognized.

SBIR & STTR PROGRAMS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about two of the Federal government's most important innovation programs: the Small Business Innovation Research program, also known as the SBIR, and the Small Business Technology Transfer program, or STTR for short.

It is very appropriate we are having this discussion as we are about to go into conference in regards to legislation that affects America's competitiveness. The SBIR and the STTR program represent the best of government industry partnerships.

The programs harness the creativity and ingenuity of America's entrepreneurs and innovators, solve the most pressing public health and national security challenges of our time.

The programs are also primed to help our Nation rebuild our domestic production capacity, to reduce our reliance on foreign supply chains on critical products, and reduce costs for the American people.

I would like to remind my colleagues that fighting inflation and rebuilding our domestic manufacturing capacity are inextricably linked.

When factories close, when products sit in shipping containers in ports, when production capacity decreases due to sick employees, and when products take longer to get from the warehouse to the store, prices go up.

I have no doubt that every Senator has heard from businesses in all sectors of the economy about solving this critical issue.

According to a recent survey the National Federation of Independent Business conducted, more than half of all small business owners reported a significant impact due to supply chain disruptions.

Thirty percent reported that the disruptions were causing a ''moderate impact,'' and 14 percent reported a ''mild impact.'' Only 5 percent of those surveyed reported that they were unaffected by the disruptions. Of the small business owners affected by disruptions, 80 percent reported that the disruptions have caused them to miss out on business opportunities.

I am very pleased to hear that President Biden announced during his State of the Union address that rebuilding America's domestic production capacity is central to his administration's plan to fight inflation and keep our Nation secure.

SBIR and STTR are two of the best tools in the Federal government's toolkit to achieve our goal. Congress created the SBIR in 1982 to increase the participation of small businesses and Federally funded research and development opportunities in areas ranging from clean energy to advanced manufacturing.

Under the program, Federal agencies that budget at least $100 million annually for outside research must allocate a portion—3.2 percent since fiscal year 2017—to support R&D and small businesses.

There are 11 Federal agencies and departments currently in the program, including the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Department of Education, and Health and Human Services. The program awards funds in three phases:

Phase 1 awards are worth up to $225,000 and may be used to conduct a feasibility study to determine an idea's scientific and commercial promise.

Phase 2 awards up to $1.5 million and may be used to conduct further R&D on the feasibility of turning an idea into a commercial product.

And phase 3 does not involve an award of funds, but denotes that an idea is ready to move from the laboratory to the marketplace.

During the commercialization phase, small businesses must raise funding from the private sector or secure non-SBIR Federal funds.

Congress created the STTR program in 1992. While the program is similar to the SBIR in structure, utilizing a similar three-phase progression, the STTR awards go to small businesses engaging in collaborative R&D with Federal labs, as well as nonprofit educational and scientific institutions.

The program requires Federal agencies and departments to spend at least $1 billion on outside research to allocate at least 0.45 percent of the funds to STTR opportunities.

Most people may not be familiar with SBIR or STTR, but they definitely recognize the products and companies in the programs that it helped create. Sonicare Electric toothbrush, iRobot, Lasik eye surgery, all received SBIR/STTR funding when they were startups. Qualcomm, which makes computer chips, semiconductors, and other technologies critical to our national communication infrastructure, also received funding from these programs. Progeny Systems, a small business based in Manassas, VA, received more than 300 SBIR and STTR awards to conduct research over a 20-year period. Progeny's research produced technology that drastically improves the Navy's torpedo capacity. The company is now the sole supplier of torpedos to the Navy; and, yes, it is still a small business.

This is another benefit of these programs: They expand and diversify the supplier base from which the Federal agencies source goods and services, increasing competition and investment in high-growth sectors, which reduce costs over time.

On the manufacturing front, several agencies, including NASA and the Department of Defense, are currently funding research on advanced manufacturing techniques, such as 3D printing and glass that can handle temperatures as high as 900 degrees, which would revolutionize our ability to monitor nuclear reactors and power plant furnaces to prevent accidents.

Simply put, SBIR and STTR are invaluable to our national security, and we should fund these programs adequately to rebuild our domestic supply chain. Unfortunately, authority for these critical programs will expire at the end of September unless Congress acts to extend them.

The House and Senate will go to conference soon on America COMPETES Act, which includes a 5-year extension of SBIR and STTR. I urge all my colleagues, especially those who will be conferees, to support this critical provision.

The junior Senator from Iowa has submitted a motion to instruct conferees to couple this effort to extend the SBIR program and the STTR program by 5 years with authorizing language to prevent China and Russia from acquiring critical national security technology developed by the program.

I agree with the Senator that the United States needs to safeguard technologies from being compromised and stolen, and I am pleased that the House Competes Act bill includes safeguards to prevent our adversaries from affecting our innovation—not just China and Russia, but all foreign countries of concern, including Iran and North Korea. This effort builds off of section 223 of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that provides protections and requires disclosure to guard against foreign influence on Federally funded research and development.

So I will support the motion the Senator from Iowa will make; but we must recognize that if we are able to compete with China and Russia, extending the authorization for SBIR and STTR are critical. I hope she will work with me to keep this important program from shutting its doors on September 30.

I would like to add that this issue is very important to my constituents in